

COTTON CORDAGE AND CANVASS.

---

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,

TRANSMITTING

The information required by a Resolution of the House of Representatives, of the  
25th ultimo, in relation to the experiments which have been made

TO TEST THE UTILITY OF

Cotton for Cordage and Sail Cloth.

---

FEBRUARY 1, 1826.

Read, and laid on the Table.

---

WASHINGTON :

PRINTED BY GALES & SEATON.

1826.



## NAVY DEPARTMENT,

*January 31st, 1826.*

SIR: In compliance with the resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 25th instant, inquiring "whether any, and, if any, what, experiments have been made in the trimming and equipment of any of the vessels of the United States Navy, to test the utility of cotton for cordage or sail cloth; and also what are the comparative strength and cost of such manufacture of that article and those of hemp," I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copy of a report made by the Commissioners of the Navy upon the subject, which embraces all the information in relation to the objects of inquiry in possession of this Department.

All which is respectfully submitted.

SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD.

The Hon. THE SPEAKER

*Of the House of Representatives.*

## NAVY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE,

28th January, 1826.

SIR: Upon the subject of the resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 25th instant, which you were pleased to refer to this Board, we have the honor to state, that, in the month of May last, we procured a quantity of cotton sail cloth, and directed it to be made into sails, to be used on board several of our public ships, with a view to test its relative strength and durability, when compared with American and Russia flax or hemp canvass, but sufficient time to make a full experiment not having elapsed, no report as to the result has been received.

With respect to the "comparative cost" of cotton canvass, the following shews the prices per yard at which we have contracted for flax canvass, and the prices asked for cotton canvass:

<i>Flax Canvass.</i>				<i>Cotton Canvass.</i>			
No. 1,	47½	cents per yard.		47	cents per yard.		
2,	43¾	do.	-	46	do.		
3,	42½	do.	-	45	do.		
4,	41¼	do.	-	44	do.		
5,	40	do.	-	43	do.		
6,	38¾	do.	-	42	do.		
7,	37½	do.	-	41	do.		
8,	36¼	do.	-	40	do.		

The width of both is made for 20 inches ; but referring to the samples in our possession, the flax canvass is full 1¼ inches wider than the cotton.

It has never occurred to the Board that it would be expedient to make any experiments of "cotton cordage," and we have no information upon the subject.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect,

Your most obed't servant,

JACOB JONES,

*Navy Commissioner.*

HON. SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD,

*Secretary of the Navy.*